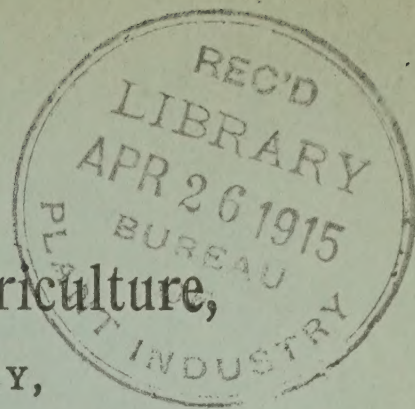


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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage-Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SHAFTAL CLOVER (*Trifolium suaveolens*).

Shaftal clover is an annual legume bearing small heads of fragrant pink flowers. It is also called Persian clover and Schabdar clover. The stems are hollow and lodge very easily. This clover has long been listed in seed catalogues as an ornamental, but has in recent years been tried out as a possible substitute for crimson clover in the Middle Atlantic States and as a green-manure catch crop in the extreme South. Trials of this in comparison with crimson clover and yellow trefoil do not indicate that it has any very important place as a substitute for either of these crops, provided seed of crimson clover or yellow trefoil can be obtained. In the extreme southern part of the United States it has given promise as a winter crop where irrigating water is available. If it is to be mown for hay it is desirable to seed it with some supporting crop, such as wheat, to prevent its lodging.

It is not certain that the other clovers carry the same inoculation as does the Shaftal clover, and for this reason special inoculation should usually be provided. Soil from successful inoculated plants is usually not available, but it is ordinarily possible to obtain the pure cultures supplied free by the United States Department of Agriculture. The seeds should be sown at the rate of 15 pounds to the acre and covered about one-half inch in depth. Owing to the scarcity and high price of the seed of this clover it is suggested that wherever a successful stand shows promise of making a seed crop, it be allowed to stand for seed. The ripened seed heads can be mown and flailed out on a canvas. The seed can be sown in the chaff and will presumably germinate just as readily as does the clean commercial seed.

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